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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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STATES RECEIVE \$10 MILLION IN FEDERAL AID WILDLIFE FUNDS

Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman announced today that \$10,025,106 has been apportioned to the 48 States for the restoration and development of their wildlife resources during fiscal year 1953.

This amount, which becomes available to State Game Departments under the terms of the Pittman-Robertson Act, as administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service, represents a decrease of \$7,165,925 from last year's apportionment of \$17,191,031.

The 1952 apportionment of \$17,191,031 amounted to almost twice the \$8,673,517 which went to the States for fiscal year 1951. This huge increase was attributed by Service Director Albert M. Day to "scare buying of rifles, shotguns, and their ammunition brought on by the Korean war. This unusual situation, which was reflected throughout industry, has now more or less returned to normal, with a corresponding drop in tax collections which can be used for wildlife purposes."

The total appropriation of \$10,679,059 includes sums set aside for wildlife in Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, and for administration of the Pittman-Robertson Act. This total represents the entire amount credited to the Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Fund during the preceding fiscal year from the 11 per cent Federal excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition levied on the manufacturers.

To obtain the Federal grants for wildlife projects, each State must contribute not less than 25 per cent of project costs. On the basis of one dollar from the State for every three of Federal funds, \$13,366,808 will be accessible to the States for Pittman-Robertson wildlife work selected and carried out by them.

Under this Act, which went into effect in 1938, projects consisting of surveys investigations, land acquisitions, land development for wildlife, and maintenance are submitted by the States to the Fish and Wildlife Service for review. Those projects which are found "substantial in character and design" are then approved on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior.

An amendment to the Act in 1950 provided additional funds for the Territories of Alaska and Hawaii. For fiscal year 1953, both territories and two island possessions will receive the maximum amounts, namely, Alaska, \$75,000; Hawaii, \$25,000; Puerto Rico, \$10,000; and the Virgin Islands, \$10,000.

The formula employed by the Fish and Wildlife Service in making State allotments is:—one-half the sum to be apportioned is divided according to the ratio which the area of each State bears to the area of all the States. The remaining half is divided on the ratio of paid hunting license holders in each State to total number of paid license holders in all States.

The Pittman-Robertson Act also provides that no State shall receive more than five per cent, nor less than one-half of one per cent of the total amount available to all the States. On this basis, Michigan and Texas are given the maximum apportionment of \$501,255, while Connecticut, Delaware, Rhode Island, and Vermont receive the minimum of \$50,126.

Allotments for the 48 States for fiscal year 1953 are as follows:

Alabama	\$178,622	Nebraska	\$207,687
Arizona	213,059	Nevada	192,922
Arkansas	165,665	New Hampshire	57,176
California	456,639	New Jersey	72,552
Colorado	311,023	New Mexico	225,029
Connecticut	50,126	New York	400,667
Delaware	50,126	North Carolina	201,506
Florida	133,265	North Dakota	149,848
Georgia	144,926	Ohio	348,276 ✓
Idaho	203,710	Oklahoma	190,290
Illinois	289,590	Oregon	245,938
Indiana	230,963	Pennsylvania	402,528
Iowa	223,522	Rhode Island	50,126
Kansas	216,372	South Carolina	101,922
Kentucky	157,740	South Dakota	172,598
Louisiana	173,149	Tennessee	211,590
Maine	119,171	Texas	501,255
Maryland	63,769	Utah	190,720
Massachusetts	64,356	Vermont	50,126
Michigan	501,255	Virginia	185,625
Minnesota	269,458	Washington	275,993
Mississippi	153,872	West Virginia	143,526
Missouri	251,208	Wisconsin	283,778
Montana	341,137	Wyoming	200,704

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